

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01853 291838Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7198

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 125

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N6&-

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: UN SUVOXSECONFERENCE, GENEVA APRIL 18 - MAY 27

REF: GENEVA 2866 AND 2919

1. CHARGE AND ECONOMIC OFFICER DISCUSSED U.S. PROPOSALS ON SUGAR AGREEMENT, AS OUTLINED REFTELS, WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RODOLFO QUIROS, AND VICE MINISTER, GILBERTO GUTIERREZ. QUIROS ATTENDED THE HAVANA CONFERENCE AND WILL ATTEND GENEVA SUGAR CONFERENCE IF REPORTS FROM COSTA RICAN REPS NOW IN GENEVA (COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR AND DINA DELALLE) INDICATE THAT THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES.

2. COSTA RICAN POSITION AS OUTLINED BY QUIROS APPEARS TO BE LARGELY CONGRUENT WITH THE U.S. POSITION. COSTA RICA FAVORS CONCEPT OF STOCKS AND WAS MAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF FINANCING THEM. QUIROS IS THEREFORE ENCOURAGED THAT UNDER THE U.S. PROPOSAL THE SUGAR STABILIZATION

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01853 291838Z

FUND WOULD BE FINANCED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IMPORTING AS WELL AS FROM EXPORTING COUNTRIES. IDEA THAT SMALL EXPORTERS WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM MINIMUM STOCK OBLIGATIONS IS ALSO WELCOMED (THIS APPEARS TO BE SIMILAR TO A PROPOSAL MENTIONED BY QUIROS THAT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY COSTA RICA AND SWAZILAND).

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT COSTA RICA'S
CONCEPT OF AN APPROPRIATE PRICE RANGE FOR SUGAR,
QUIROS AT FIRST SAID, "WELL OF COURSE THE HIGHER THE
PRICE THE BETTER WE WOULD LIKE IT." HOWEVER, AS THE
DISCUSSION CONTINUED HE RECOGNIZED THAT TOO HIGH A
PRICE WOULD LEAD TO OVER PRODUCTION AND EXCESSIVE
STOCKS. HE OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT ANY PRICE
OVER 12 CENTS A POUND WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFACTORY TO
COSTA RICA. HE ALSO AGREED THAT COSTA RICA'S PRODUC-
TION COSTS ARE GENERALLY LOWER THAN PRODUCTION COSTS
IN THE U.S. AND THAT THEREFORE ANY PRICE THAT WOULD BE
CONVENIENT TO THE U.S. WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE SATISFACTORY
FOR COSTA RICA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN
THAT SOME PARTS OF THE COSTA RICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY,
NOTABLY NEW OR RECENTLY IMPROVED SUGAR MILLS, HAVE
EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH COSTS.

4. QUIROS APPEARED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CUBAN POSITION
AT THE SUGAR CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE
CUBAN POINT OF VIEW THAT ITS MARKET QUOTA FOR FREE
WORLD SALES SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY EXPORT AGREE-
MENTS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. QUIROS CONSIDERS
THESE SALES TO BE BARTER TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE SEPARATE OR
SEPARABLE FROM
FREE MARKET TRANSACTIONS. QUIROS
OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A QUESTION
MAINLY OF INTEREST
TO THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES AS IT
WOULD APPEAR TO INVOLVE A DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT
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PAGE 03 SAN JO 01853 291838Z

THEY WISH TO CONCEDE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' MARKETS
TO CUBA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, SUGAR, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, STOCKPILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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